

## in the news

### INSIDE

MIT Dramashop's final set of one-act plays, *Embers* and *A Slight Ache*, although successful, might have benefited by more time spent in rehearsal.

p6

The Tech looks at how dormitory architecture and living quality affects the social life of their residents in a photo essay. Burton House is the focus in this investigation.

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For the first time in six years an MIT swim squad will appear in the NCAA Division III Nationals. Five swimmers qualified for the honor in the New England Championships held over a week ago.

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### CAMPUS

Professor of Political Science William E. Griffith told *The Boston Globe* Saturday that he is being considered by the Carter Administration for a seat on the Board of International Broadcasting. The five-member board oversees Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Robert S. Pindyck, Associate Professor of Management and an expert on natural gas deregulatory policies, believes that natural gas prices should be deregulated in three stages and that "energy stamps" similar to food stamps, should be issued to low-income consumers to help defray the increased cost.

A blind person's alternative to a computer terminal's video display has been developed at MIT's Sensory Aids Evaluation and Development Center. The device provides information in Braille through a set of solenoid-operated pins that the blind computer operator reads by feeling.

### NATION

A study prepared by a computer research team at the University of New Mexico and released recently by the congressional Joint Economic Committee said that solar heating would be cheaper than gas or oil by 1980 in New England, New York, and other parts of the country.

### WORLD

Former US Ambassador to the Uganda Clarence C. Ferguson said that while Idi Amin, controversial President of the African nation, may not be crazy, he is "not very bright."

## MIT food co-op to start operations

By Bob Wasserman

The MIT Food Co-op is searching for permanent space for operations as efforts to organize and gain experience are nearly completed.

Phil Veatch '79 is in charge of the group looking for a room for use by the Co-op. Veatch said that refrigeration space was needed, as well as a room the "size of a small classroom" to be used for weekly food drop-offs and distributing.

Wayne Christian '77 explained the MIT Food Co-op's interest in joint activity with other local food co-ops. These local organizations include the Cambridge Food Co-op, Union Square Food Co-op, and New England Food Cooperative Organization (NEFCO).

The MIT Co-op would join NEFCO, which buys food from the Chelsea market and distributes it to smaller food cooperatives throughout New England.

Members of the MIT-Co-op would initially work with the Union Square and Cambridge Co-ops for a few weeks to gain experience for later work at MIT.

The Union Square Co-op is a neighborhood organization which has a format similar to the one the MIT Food Co-op is planning. Each week a different block of houses in the Co-op does the work, using pre-order forms and distributing the food at a permanent location.

The Cambridge Co-op has a larger, more complex food distribution system, and offers more items than the Union Square Co-

op, including a wider variety of supermarket goods, besides food. The Cambridge Co-op is more convenient for MIT students, although an operation of that extent is not foreseen at MIT until next year, according to Christian.

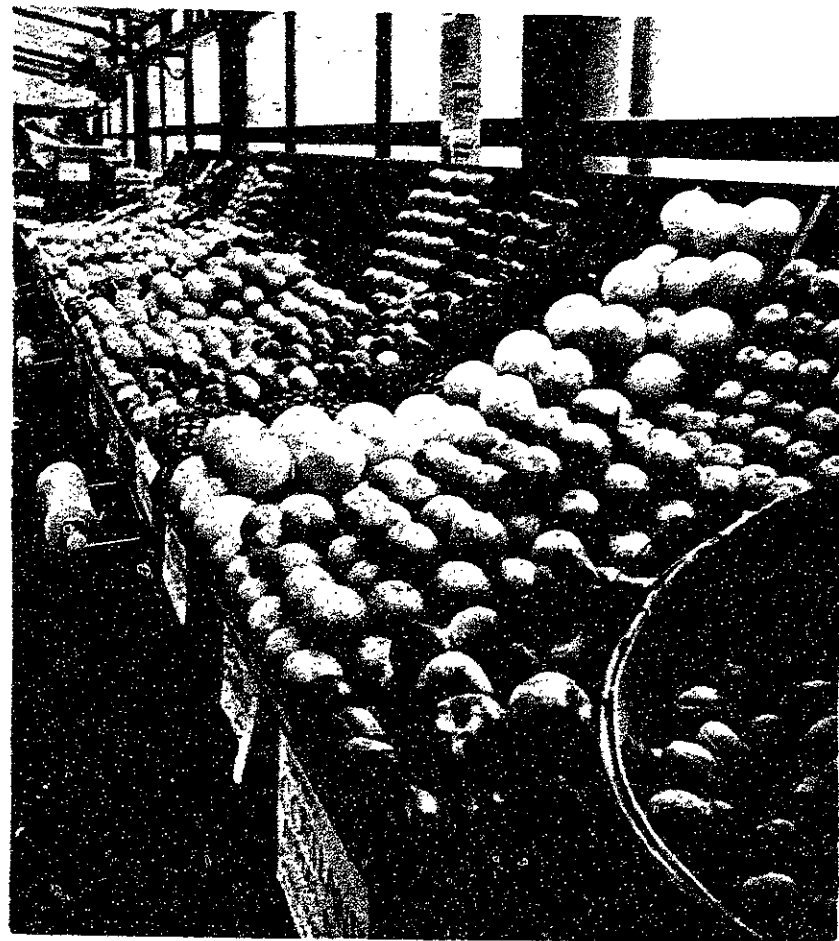
The experience gained at these neighboring co-ops would facilitate the first month of operation for the Co-op at MIT, maintains Christian. Fifty to 80 people would be involved in the Co-op's beginning, and a "lot of work will have to be done in the first few weeks," he added.

Initially the Co-op would have a food delivery one day a week at a 10 percent mark-up from market prices. Individuals would contribute two hours of work per month toward running the organization.

Christian said that the co-op could expand to 200 members by the end of this term, and possibly 500 to one thousand by next year if interest is shown. Deliveries could be increased to twice a week and an expanded variety of goods could be offered.

The idea of a food co-op at MIT was first introduced at a General Assembly meeting by Undergraduate Association President Phil Moore a short time ago. Moore also presided over the first Co-op meeting last month. After this meeting several students, including Veatch and Christian, stepped forward to plan the Co-op.

At the second meeting committees were formed to look into the problem of finding space for the Co-op and also to talk with local



Fresh produce may become more readily available to MIT students once the food cooperative gets underway this term.

food co-ops.

The next meeting of the MIT Co-op will be Tuesday, March 15 at 4pm in the Mezzanine Lounge of the Student Center.

Christian and Veatch said that general organization of the Co-op will be discussed, but the main focus will be on solving the problem of space. Plans to petition the Housing and Food Ser-

vices Office to allow the Co-op to be housed in a dormitory will be made.

Veatch recalled the MIT Co-op was originated to help students lower living costs because "students have more time than money". The groundwork for the Co-op has been laid, and a permanent home must be found soon to insure its success, he added.

### Background analysis

## Grading issues have complicated history

By Mark James

The Ad Hoc Committee on Grading is scheduled to present the first part of their report to the faculty this Wednesday.

The continuing debate on grading centers on two issues: grade inflation — the tendency for professors to give higher

grades to more students — and the distributions of grades on outside transcripts, specifically whether freshmen should remain on pass/fail.

This most recent grading committee was formed in April of 1975 in the wake of a heated debate over proposed changes in

the grading system.

At that time, the faculty made several changes in the grading system, including the institution of the present add date and other minor procedural changes. More important, however, were the changes that the faculty *did not* make.

The debate concerned recommendations made by the present committee's predecessor. These recommendations included the elimination of F grades from the external transcript, the addition of a space on grade reports for comments, allowing students to repeat a course for a better grade, and several other procedural changes.

During the discussion of these recommendations, which tended toward liberalizing the grading system, many faculty members took the opportunity to make it known that they thought the system had become too liberal already.

Criticism was directed at freshman pass/fail from some who felt that students did not get an adequate background for future course work from P/F courses.

The greatest controversies arose when Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Steven Senturia proposed that pluses and minuses be attached to the present grades to give faculty more choices when grading students, and when James Melcher, also an EE professor, proposed the elimination of the second term of freshman pass/fail.

Both proposals met objections

as unduly increasing the pressure on students. Proponents argued that MIT should be obligated to provide adequate information to graduate and professional schools about students' performances.

The faculty gave tentative approval to Senturia's proposal, but in the end, both the liberalizing proposals of the Ad Hoc Committee and the plus minus proposal were voted down, and the only changes adopted were the add date, the extension of the senior pass/fail option to juniors, and other minor changes.

Professor of Management Zenon S. Zanneto, the chairman of the present committee, told *The Tech* that his group is a "study committee" that will offer no recommendations, but will merely report on the effectiveness of the present system.

According to student member Louis Touton '77, the Committee's initial report will cover mainly grade inflation, since the Committee has not really studied pass/fail yet. The Committee will present what is "by no means a final report," according to Touton, who said that it may explore how some "less desirable effects" of the present system could be corrected.

Whether this spring will see a repeat of the debate of two years ago depends upon what the faculty does after hearing the Committee's report. Many of the same views on grading that were present two years ago are still around, and many of them may make an appearance when the faculty again looks at grading.

### Demand for Petroleum Products (Thousands of barrels per day)

Products	1976	1975	1974	1973	% Chg 75-76
Total Demand	17,291	16,291	16,653	17,308	+6.1
Motor gasoline	6,965	6,674	6,537	6,674	+4.4
Residual	2,728	2,433	2,639	2,822	+12.1
Distillate	3,118	2,849	2,948	3,092	+9.4
Other products	4,480	4,335	4,529	4,720	+3.3

## Petroleum demand up 6% due to weather, economy

By David B. Koretz

Demand for all petroleum products in the United States rose 6.1 percent last year above the 1975 level, according to the Federal Energy Administration (FEA).

The 17.29 million barrels per day was 1.3 percent above the FEA forecast for the year, an increase due largely to the severe winter at the end of 1976.

Residual fuel oil, which is used primarily by industry and electric-power generating plants, was in much higher demand in 1976 than in the previous year, probably because of improvement in

the economy and the colder weather. The demand for the residual fuel oil was up 12.1 percent over 1975, but showed only a 3.4 percent gain over 1974 and a 3.3 percent dip from the 1973 mark.

Home heating oil and diesel fuel, collectively known as distillates, were also in higher demand in 1976 than in 1975. The increase was 9.4 percent, again attributable to colder weather.

Demand for gasoline was up 4.4 percent over 1975, and up 6.5 percent and 4.4 percent over the 1974 and 1973 levels, respectively.

## notes

\* All household aluminum items, including empty beverage cans, may be brought for recycling to Reynolds Aluminum, 50 Tower Rd. in Newton Upper Falls, or to Liberty Market, Border St. in East Boston. The aluminum products are worth 17 cents per pound to the donor.

\* The Graduate School Office is seeking nominees for the Goodwin Medal, an award for performance of teaching duties by a graduate student who is conspicuously excellent. Nominations should be transferred to Dean Kenneth Wadleigh, Room 3-136 through the nominee's department head before Monday, April 4.

\* The last in this year's series of ethnic nights at the Boston Museum of Science will be a program on Japanese culture on Friday evening, March 18. Hakata dolls, calligraphy, karate, origami, bonsai, and folk songs are among the featured attractions. There is no additional charge above the Friday night admission fee of \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for students, children, and senior citizens.

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\* The MIT UHF Repeater Association will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, March 16 at 9pm in Room 400 of the Student Center. Anyone interested in amateur radio is invited to attend; refreshments will be served; call Jeff Mogul x5-9632 or Jim Fenton x5-9269 for information.

\* "Akiba: The Passion of God" will be the title of a talk given by Elie Wiesel, Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. The lecture, tonight at the BU Law School Auditorium, 765 Commonwealth Ave., is one in a series given in cooperation with the BU Hill Foundation.

\* The Department of Humanities has announced the I. Austin Kelly II Prizes for Excellence in Humanistic Scholarship for 1976-77. Two prizes of \$250 each for scholarly essays judged to be outstanding in anthropology, archaeology, history, literary studies, or musicology will be given to two full-time MIT undergraduates. A unified piece of approximately five thousand to ten thousand words must be submitted by Monday, May 2. Contact the Course XXI office at 14N-305, x3-4446 for information.

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Each working man and woman's share of our 71 quads comes to 800,000,000 BTUs. Of course all that energy isn't spent on the job. Nor do all jobs take the same amount, although most spend more than we think. But when you look at our available energy and the 89,000,000 people at work, then 800,000,000 BTUs is each job's share.

Now think about the 18,000,000 more U.S. men and women experts say will be looking for jobs over the next ten years. At 800,000,000 BTUs apiece, we'll have to come up with an extra 14.4 quads of energy to create new jobs for them.

At Armco, we face the energy problem every day because it takes about 29,000,000 BTUs to make each

ton of steel. Our energy bill last year came to over \$300,000,000. The cost keeps climbing every year. No wonder companies conserve energy. We have to, even though most of Armco's energy comes from coal which we mine ourselves. When companies can't get energy, people lose their jobs. We all learned that during the winter. The energy crisis is here. And it's huge.

## Plain talk about ENERGY

We Americans already know how to solve the energy crisis. We have the technology to reach solutions. Yet each solution comes with its own set of political problems. Natural gas mustn't cost too much. Offshore oil mustn't spoil our beaches. Coal mustn't rape the land or poison the air. The atom mustn't threaten to destroy us. Energy conservation mustn't interfere with spending BTUs for worthy reasons.

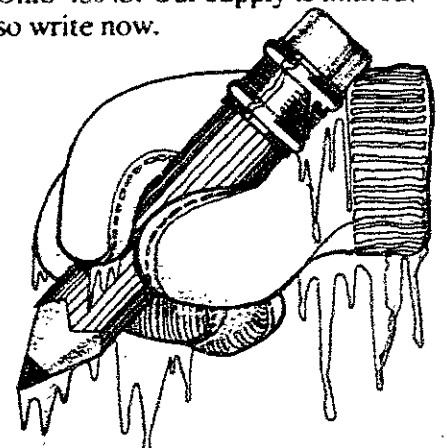
Fair enough. But so far, we're paying more attention to the problems than we are to the energy itself. We've got to stop making every social goal an ideological crusade. We need to think things through and make rational trade-offs if we're ever going to get those 18,000,000 additional jobs.

Next time some zealot crusades for anything, test the crusade against this question: *Does it produce at least one BTU's worth of energy?* If not, it won't do a thing to help you get a job.

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# Blood drive draws 1,595 pints

**By Drew Blakeman**  
The MIT Red Cross Spring 1977 Blood Drive ended Friday with a total of 1595 pints donated. Although the original goal of 2000 pints was not reached, Blood

Drive contest. One hundred percent of all those eligible to give blood in both houses did so. Fiji finished third with 76 percent. Theta Xi, which was the most improved house with a jump from

This is the first time that more than one fraternity hit 100 percent on a Drive, and only three houses have ever done it — the two during this drive, Delta Upsilon in fall 1976, and Theta Chi again in fall 1975 and spring 1976.

"This was the best overall showing ever for the fraternity system," according to Piet. He said that this drive marked the first time that over half of all eligible fraternity people gave blood.

"This was the best overall showing ever for the fraternity system"

Drive Chairman Steven Piet '78 said that "this was the second-best Drive in three and a half years."

He pointed out the "steady increase" in the amount of blood donated during the past three drives. The Spring 1976 Drive netted 1464 pints, and this past fall 1523 pints were donated.

Theta Chi and Phi Delta Theta tied for first place in the Inter-Fraternity Conference's Blood

14 to 74 percent, took fourth place. Each house won a keg of beer.

In the Dormcon-sponsored contest, Connor 4 reaped top honors with 70 percent donating, with second place Connor 5 just falling short with 68 percent. French House finished third with 53 percent. Burton 1 was most improved, rising from three to 33 percent. Each dormitory group also won a keg of beer.

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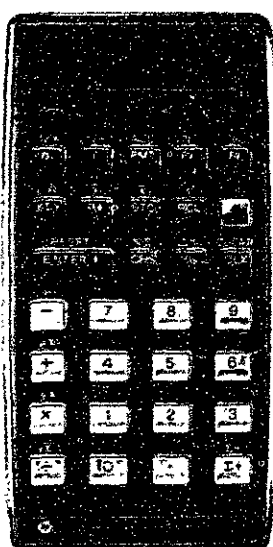
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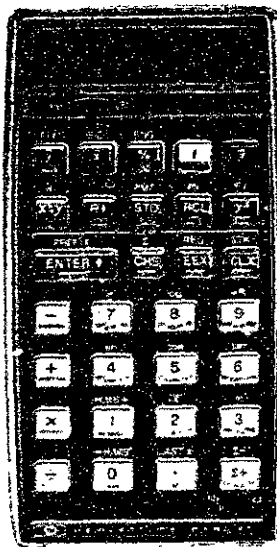
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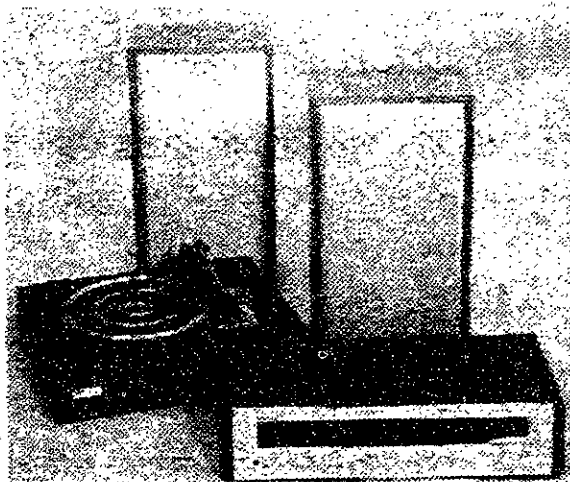
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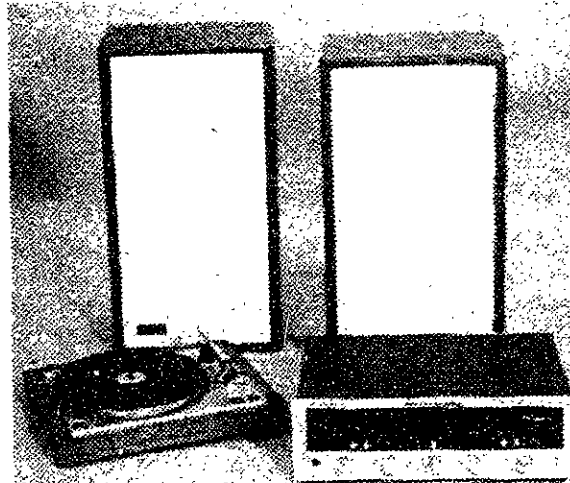
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# opinion

## Biology debate links Huxley and Baltimore

By William Lasser

*We also predestine and condition. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons, as future sewage workers or future... Directors of Hatcheries.*

— Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

We in Cambridge were present at the creation; we were witnesses to and participants in the first of what will prove to be many debates and controversies over the social applications of biological science.

Recombinant DNA research is just the beginning. The danger of P3 research lies not in the creation of monsters who will ravage the Cambridge countryside, but in the possibilities such research will afford someday for the violation or elimination of the rights of human beings.

It is all so paradoxical, for the same research which could lead to such unthinkable results could also provide the cure for cancer and the common cold. But the dilemma we face is not unique — atomic power, which perhaps could solve our energy crisis, could also destroy the world in a matter of seconds.

The City Council decision and the procedures which led to it are remarkable in themselves. We have seen an attempt first by the scientific community and then by a local government to limit basic research. We have seen a panel of laymen study an inordinately complex technical issue and make a reasoned, logical recommendation. But most importantly, we have seen men and women running scared, drawing parallels between tiny bacteria and gargantuan monsters, between Huxley's writing and David Baltimore's research.

The problem is not biology, but philosophy. We cannot accept advances in technology which are potentially hazardous because we have not yet established a social order capable of controlling them. Something must be wrong with a society which rejects progress out of fear of its abuse.

Biological research presents special problems. Many are terrified by the words "bacteria" and "virus" simply because they do not know what they mean, or because such microorganisms conjure up images of disease and misery. "Genetic engineering" represents a threat to our family structure and to our present

here  
and  
now

value system.

And behind all of this is politics, a fear that the government will somehow gain a monopoly on genetic technology and use it to subjugate its citizens, rob them of their individuality and their humanity. "A really efficient totalitarian state," wrote Huxley in a 1946 preface to his 1932 classic, "would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude." And to bring about such a conditioned people would require, among other things, "a foolproof system of eugenics, designed to standardize the human product and so to facilitate the task of the managers."

When Cambridge Mayor Alfred Vellucci attacks DNA research, when he travels to Washington to meet with others who feel as he does, perhaps he is not really worried about his city in a physical sense. Instead, he might be much more concerned about his society, his values, his way of life.

The early history of atomic research was conducted in secret. The research itself, carried out under a Chicago football stadium, and the implications of the work were both far more dangerous than in the Cambridge-DNA case. Even had the existence of the Manhattan Project been known, it would not have engendered as much controversy as we have just been through. Atomic energy, for all it can do to us, does not require a totalitarian regime to wreck its havoc. And such a government is at least as fear-inducing as the mythical DNA monsters.

The transfer of small amounts of genetic material from one species to another, while it will not produce 80 lb. mushrooms or dogs with seven feet, could be hazardous to the health of the people of Cambridge. But that is not the real fear working on Vellucci and his supporters. Professors Baltimore et al., they fear, are writing the first chapter of a new, nonfiction edition of *Brave New World*.

The  
Tech

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Tuesday, March 15, 1977

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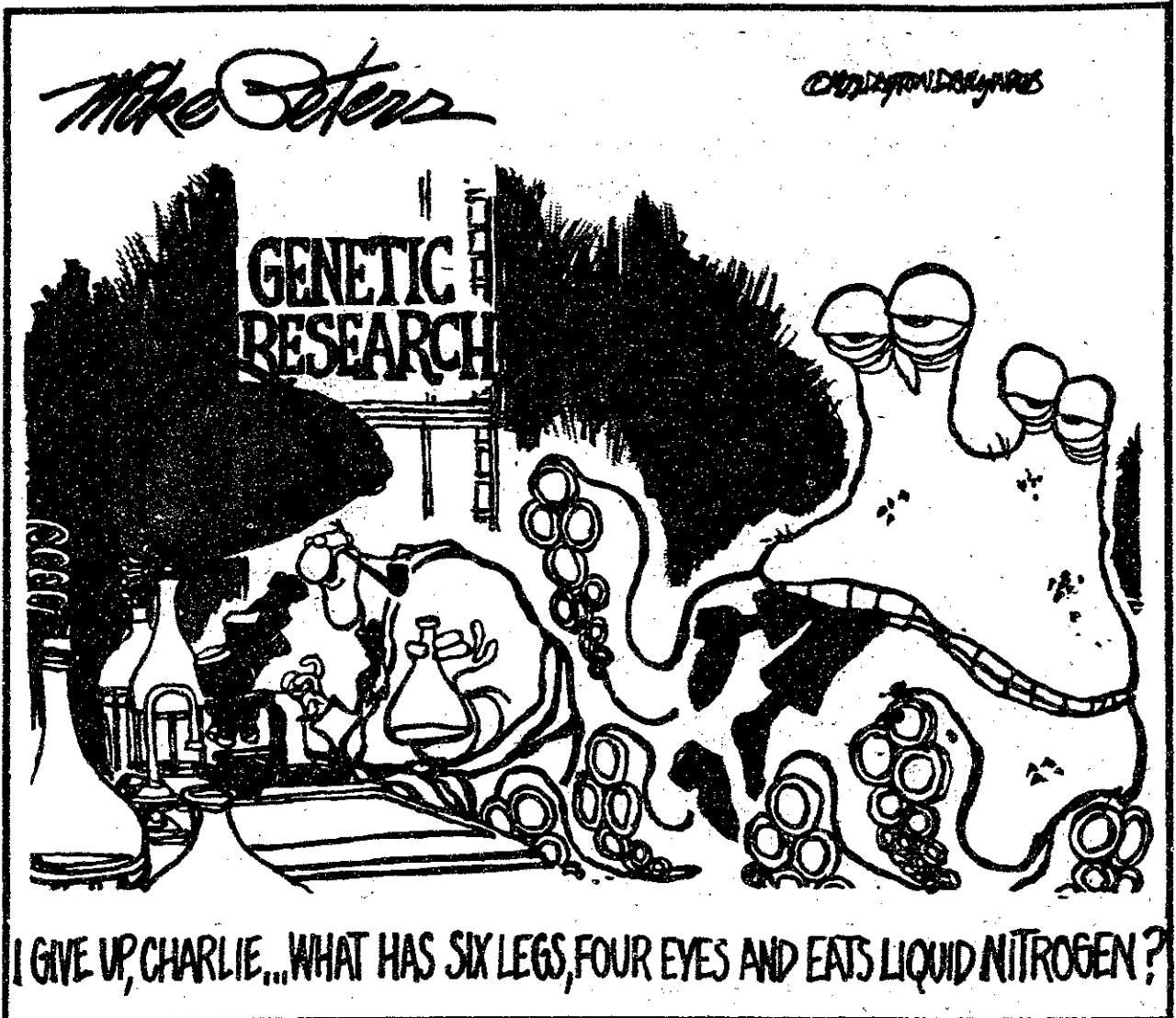
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## The reporting of terrorism

By Glenn Brownstein

Are they publicity-seeking, genuinely disturbed, or a combination of the two? All of them had similar motives: revenge, or "out to make a point."

One of them claimed to be swindled by a loan company; one had a fight with a girl friend. One wanted to find a son he had given up for adoption 20 years earlier; one wanted a presidential apology for black oppression by whites.

glorify it as well. Gary Mark Gilmore was a convicted murderer who gained national notoriety by insisting on his right to die. Some have called his actions deliberately suicidal. Others defended his wishes, asserting that the laws are made to be enforced.

But through the couple of months that it took for Gilmore to be executed, the press was everywhere, probing beyond

Washington are the ones it does best. But is it justified to spend a number of hours over two days probing every angle, giving the Hanafis as much free coverage as they desire?

Censoring the press is a delicate topic. Blacking out all mention of these incidents, while perhaps instrumental in diminishing their number, denies the public its right to news. A famous example occurred in 1962, when *The New York Times* knew of the Bay of Pigs invasion before it was to occur. Under a "request" from the State Department, the story was held, and the botched-up incursion failed miserably, with some loss of life.

If the *Times* had run the story, the invasion would probably not have occurred, and fewer would have died. The negative publicity that the Kennedy Administration would have received would have been weathered within a month or two, and an unfortunate chapter of history might have been averted.

So perhaps the answer is to continue giving any crazy with the guts to round up a few hostages a city-wide or national forum for a couple of days and hope that the crisis abates. Maybe the answer is to stop running these four-page *Time* or *Newsweek* spreads on "The New Wave of Terrorism," or "The Right to Die." I think the answer is to cover these occurrences as straight news, letting the facts speak for themselves and only adding as much background

### perspectives

And last week all of Washington and the rest of the nation waited tensely while America's latest hostage drama played itself out — the taking of 134 hostages by Hanafi Moslem gunmen out to gain some sort of revenge on members of the Black Muslim sect that had murdered seven Hanafis four years ago.

There have been seven hostage-taking incidents in the United States in the last five weeks, an epidemic that is likely to spread further before any cure can be found. On March 2, the Task Force on Disorders and Terrorism, a government organization commissioned to prepare a report on the widespread terrorist violence, warned in its report that an increase in terrorism and violent political protests was expected.

To quote from the report, "general orderliness in the nation is a false claim, and we must see in the current social situation an assumption [sic] of trouble for the future."

Why the current upsurge in terrorist incidents in the US? Is the nation populated with more crazies than in past years? Has the American bureaucracy become so tangled that citizens must resort to violence to get their way? Not likely. What is likely is that more and more Americans are learning the power of the media to glorify not only the good, but the evil.

There are many of us who often tread the thin line between sanity and uncontrolled behavior. If we are angry at society, so angry that we feel we must lash out at something or someone, the appropriate kind of action will not only publicize our plight, but

reasonable limits, filling newswEEKlies and dailies with stories of life on "death row," Gilmore's motives, his family, his background, his friends, his lawyers, the last night in prison, and a minute-by-minute account of the execution day. If Gilmore had followed the normal course of appeal, and fought the death sentence, he probably would be alive today. And unknown.

It is true that the first execution in this country since 1967 is news, but not to the extent that it was sensationalized.

It is that tendency of modern media to sensationalize dramatic stories that has led us into an era of hostage crimes, terrorism, and other forms of violent protest. Would Stephen Gregory have felt that the best way to "make a point" was to hold seven hostages in a bank for several hours if his action would have gone unnoticed by the public? The Hanafi

**"There have been seven hostage-taking incidents in the United States in the last five weeks, an epidemic that is likely to spread further before any cure can be found."**

Moslems apparently felt that the coverage they received from the press was worthwhile; to them, it apparently seemed like the most expedient way to publicize their feud with the Black Muslims.

Television's job is to bring us news more quickly and more graphically than either newspapers or radio can manage. And stories like the holding of 134 hostages in three locations in

as is necessary to give a clear picture of what is going on. And that's all. Televised executions are extremely distasteful and serve no positive purpose. Giving several Americans a chance to keep not only a number of hostages captive with their guns, but also millions of Americans captive with their ideas, is equally distasteful, and only a provocation for further incidents.



# opinion cont.

## feedback

### No arms moratorium

**To the Editor:**  
I would like to respond to Professor Feld's talk, especially to his suggestion that we adopt a unilateral new arms deployment moratorium. As I did not attend his lecture, my reponse is based on the report in last Tuesday's *The Tech*.

In 1965, Defense Secretary McNamara stated the nuclearly vastly inferior "... Soviets have decided that they have lost the quantitative race, and they are not seeking to engage us in that contest." As of 1967, the US froze deployment at 1,054 ICBM's and 656 SLBM's. In the five years that followed Soviet ICBM's went from 460 to 1,527 and SLBM's from 130 to 560.

Today, whatever arguments exist about budgets and exchange rates, "The USSR is ahead of the US in strategic weaponry. US technical superiority in some areas reduces the awesomeness of the bare figures, but in terms of sheer military weight, the Soviets have taken the lead," according to Lt. Gen Daniel O. Graham, a former Defense Intelligence Agency head.

Dr. Fred Ikle, outgoing Disarmament boss, notes: "If Soviet programs were merely a reaction to ours, their strategic budget would have declined over the last 15 years, because this is what ours did; they would have stopped deploying ICBM's when they reached 1000 ... because we stopped at 1000 ..." etc.

From his remarks about Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), I will venture to assume that Prof. Feld, while not a Walter Cronkite-style arms thinker (there are enough bombs around to "obliterate the world a hundred times over."), supports the central premise of MAD, that both the USSR and US have enough weapons to ensure the second party will be able to inflict

an unacceptable amount of damage on the first, attacking, party. This would explain why he feels a moratorium would not hurt the US.

But why, then, does the economically hardpressed Soviet Union divert such vast resources (30 percent of their production, if you believe Solzhenitsyn) to further military build-up, if the concept of superiority is meaningless, as Kissenger claims?

C.M. Haaland and E.P. Wigner respond that "... if their elaborate civil defense plans are executed, the entire US striking force will not be able to destroy more than a small fraction of the Soviet population, much smaller than the number of Soviets killed in World War II." Lord Chalfont, Harold Wilson's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs from 1964-70, asserts "... continued and even reinforced insistence in Soviet military analysis that nuclear war is a risk that has to be faced and therefore prepared for ... There is evidence of a persistent Soviet preoccupation with civil defense ... " Given that the USSR murdered over six million of its own people just to collectivize agriculture, frightening possibilities emerge.

As regards the specific suggestion, I'm sorry Prof. Feld, I just don't think it would work.  
Ron Feigenblatt G  
March 8, 1977

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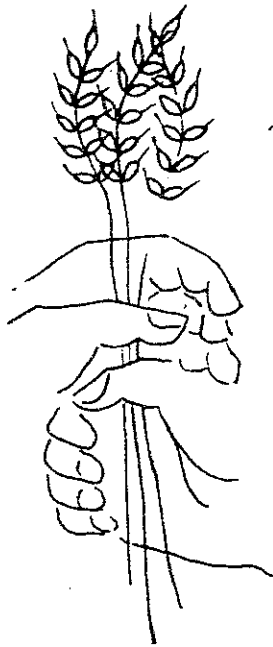
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a time to embrace and a time to  
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*The interdenominational celebration of  
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# Dramashop's last set of one-acts ambitious

By Kent Pitman

What? No instant replay? Those who went to Dramashop one-act plays over the weekend to relax their tired brains were met with a surprise, for the plays being offered were not of the class that one can just sit and watch mindlessly. Indeed, many probably wished that they could have seen them several times before attempting to decipher them.

Samuel Beckett's *Embers*, the dramatized psychoanalysis of a man, Henry (Jerry Epstein '78), who is constantly speaking aloud to himself and to his long-dead father about the "realities" of his world, was perhaps a touch too ambitious to be attempted on such a short rehearsal schedule. Dramashop allows nine days from the night its one-acts are cast to opening night in which to rehearse.

Alanna Connors produced the play admirably considering the circumstances, but the show dragged noticeably during parts of Henry's long monologues, and no doubt a few extra days of preparation would have been desirable.

It is difficult to criticize Jerry Epstein's portrayal of Henry for approximately two-thirds of the play is devoted to his monologues. It is a tremendously difficult part because of the depth of character required to pull it off effectively; Epstein's performance was par for a college actor, though lacking life in some places.

Gayle Ehrenhalt '78, as Ada, was a much more fluid character and much more believable. She contrasts well with Henry, providing a basis against which he can be more easily understood.

Set design by David Muller '77 was excellent. The scenery, several large boulders against a rocky background and a cold blue sky, added much to the atmosphere of the play. Lighting, by Mitch Hollander '78, was reasonably effective, but transitions between areas were often abrupt and distracting.

*A Slight Ache* written by Harold Pinter and directed by Susan Morgello '78, was technically well presented, although the meanings of all its subtleties were not made clear.

The play deals symbolically with Edward, a middle-aged man approaching the doorstep of old age. He fears the oncoming effects of the aging process and refuses to accept them or to discuss them with his wife, Flora. The playwright introduces the character of the Matchseller, a very old man who never speaks and seldom moves throughout the entire play, to act as a mirror against which Edward and Flora may display their inner selves.

The Matchseller is invited into their house, but refuses to speak to either of them. Flora and Edward take turns being alone with the Matchseller to try to convince him to speak to them.

The Matchseller, who represents Edward's old age, is rejected by Edward, but in the end, accepted by Flora. She walks out of the room at the end of the play holding the Matchseller's arm, leaving Edward behind her on the floor.

Edward has made the transition to old age, but whether the audience is to believe that Edward has triumphed (since the image of himself as an old man has been accepted by Flora) or been defeated (being left on the floor) is difficult to say, and was certainly not made clear by the production.

Performances by Mark de Lemos '78 and Ellen Sullivan were extremely good and very entertaining. Michael Herrera '77, the Matchseller, deserves special praise for his characterization of the Matchseller. His ability to stand motionless for long periods of time while interrogated by Flora and



Michael Herrera '77, the Matchseller in Dramashop's production of *A Slight Ache*, stands oblivious to the characters around him.

Edward is a feat of concentration requiring a great deal of talent and practice.

Settings by Michael Connor '79 made excellent use of the small size of the stage to depict the dining room, study, and garden of the couple's house.

Following Dramashop tradition, the shows were followed by a question-answer

session at which members of the audience were able to discuss the plays with the cast and crew, piecing together any parts of the plays which remained unclear in their minds.

Perhaps the necessity for such a critique to tie up the loose ends is a comment on the

productions themselves. Like the famed "tie-up-the-loose-ends" scene at the end of a *Perry Mason* re-run, the critique session almost apologizes for making the plot too difficult for many in the audience to follow. A bit more time spent working on the original presentation would seem a much better solution.

## events

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble will present scenes in the chapel tonight at 8pm. The performance includes scenes from *Agamemnon*, *Henry IV, Part 2*, *Othello*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Changeling*, *Footfalls*, *Bingo*, *Caesar* and *Cleopatra*, and *Equus*.

The celebrated Spanish classical guitarist Narciso Yepes will give a concert on Sunday, March 20, at 3pm in Kresge Auditorium. The concert, sponsored by the MIT Music Section, is open to the public free of charge. Yepes' program includes works by Fernando Sor, Luis Milan and Isaac Albeniz.

A lecture recital, "The Song Cycle as Entity: Schumann's *Liederkreis*, Opus 39," will be held in the MIT Music Library (Rm. 14E-109) at 5:15pm on Thursday, March 17. Arthur Komar will give the lecture and will accompany at the piano tenor Rufus Hallmark who will sing the collection of songs. Both Dr. Komar and Dr. Hallmark are members of the Music Section in the Dept. of Humanities. The lecture is open to

the public and is free of charge.

Soprano Linda Terry and pianist Victor Rosenbaum will be performing works by Schubert, Vebern and Mozart on Thursday, March 17, at 8pm at the Community Music Center, 48 Warren Ave. in Boston. All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information call 482-7494.

The Quincy House Music Society, a student-run, non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of jazz in the Boston area, is planning to reopen *The Amphion*. At this time, the House is trying to compile a list of jazz fans interested in helping to organize, and of jazz musicians interested in performing at *The Amphion*. For further information, please contact Jennifer Cohen at 498-7306.

A "Swing into Spring" Benefit Pops Concert sponsored by the Boston University Women Graduates' Club and the Boston University Alumni Association will be held at 3pm, March 20, at the Boston

University Case Center, 285 Babcock Street, Boston. The program will feature Guest conductor Arthur Fiedler and the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra will perform works by Tchaikovsky, Rogers and Hammerstein, Sibelius, Purcell, Prokofiev, Offenbach, Bizet, Handel, Moussorgsky and Gershwin. General admission is \$5. Tickets and reservations are available by mail order from Dr. Jane S. Norton, 881 Commonwealth Ave., Boston University, Boston MA 02215, or at the Boston University George Sherman Union Ticket Counter, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston.

Lily Tomlin will bring her special style of character, comedy, and song to Boston at the Wilbur Theatre for a seven-performance engagement beginning on Wednesday evening, March 16. She will give performances Wednesday through Friday evening at 8pm, Saturday at 7 and 10pm and Sunday at 3 and 7pm. The Wilbur Theatre box office is now open from 10am to 6pm and mail orders may be sent to the theatre, 252 Tremont St. For more information, call 423-4008.

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS

### Stewart Awards

The William L. Stewart Awards are given to students in recognition of a single, outstanding contribution to a particular activity or event.

Send nominations to the Awards Committee, Room W20-345

### Compton Awards

The Karl Taylor Compton Awards are the highest awards given to students by the Institute community and reflect the belief that real excellence and devotion to the welfare of the MIT community in any area, with emphasis on lasting or sustained contributions to the MIT community as a whole, should be recognized.

### Murphy Award

The James N. Murphy Award is given to an Institute employee whose spirit and loyalty exemplify inspired and dedicated service, especially with regard to students.

DEADLINE DATE: APRIL 11



# The physical structure of a dormitory shapes the social life of its residents

By Gordon Haff

In the early 1970's MIT undertook a campaign to renovate its dormitory system. It was a move from the old corridor-style dormitories like Baker House, East Campus, and the Old Burton House to new ones which employ the suite system familiar to the present residents of MacGregor and Burton. It was an attempt to increase the social interaction within the Institute Houses and to generally make them more comfortable.

The most interesting case is that of Burton, since it has existed both as the classic example of a corridor dormitory before its renovation in 1971, and as a dorm employing the suite system after that.

In the years before its renovation, it was generally considered that the physical aspects of Burton were worse than Bexley's today. A former resident related, "... the plaster flaked, the pipes jutted inconveniently, the carpeting (where it existed) aged ungracefully and when wet smelled dankly of old beer, the furniture

lights with frisbees, and no one cared. Traditions grew up around these events.

Freshman shower night dates back to the days of the old dormitories as does Burton Third's "Drink 'till you Drop" weekend and a variety of other localized traditions. The 1973 Committee on Student Environment (CSE) report agreed that "traditions which gave each floor a distinctive and describable character were an important feature of the Old Burton."

However, the report also noted: "In corridor-style dorms like East Campus and the Old Burton, the addition of carpeting and attractive lighting has helped convert the corridors into floor living rooms, where people would gather for good conversation rather than hockey and water fights. This has helped create a more quiet and civilized floor life... These changes have given students a greater pride in their residence (italics mine)... On the whole we conclude that all hallways should be carpeted and that this will increase both the quan-

Burton House two freshman shower nights ago). However, many people would prefer this to a quiet conversation in a carpeted hall.

The same can be said of other similar activities. After the Registration Day Beer Blast, the carpets of Burton Third were so saturated with beer that it could be smelled by people walking up the stairwell for several days afterwards.

If one were unfamiliar with the dorms, he might feel that the differences between the "civilized" and "uncivilized" furnishings and structures are so minor that they could easily be overcome, were there the desire. This person would be correct. Several Burton floors stayed together during the year of transition. The residents stayed in leased efficiency apartments (Hamilton House and an apartment in Medford) and went on to become close-knit, rowdy floors in the newly renovated Burton.

It seems fairly clear, however, that these floors remained close-knit and rowdy in spite of, rather than because of, the new structure. Dormitory floors have only a very limited ability to choose their residents. In the Old Burton, just about the only people who moved in were those who enjoyed the atmosphere of the place; they certainly wouldn't move in for the physical facilities.

The same is not true in the case of the new Burton. Many people move in only for the rooms, which are among the nicest on campus. Since a rowdy floor is not average at MIT, an average person who joins a rowdy, close-knit floor will detract something from it and, given enough time, that floor will become average for MIT. As a result, dorm floors in the physically desirable dorms tend toward homogeneity and the individual character which existed from before modernization will in time tend to disappear.

In Burton, floors have, as a rule, become more quiet with each year since renovation. Burton One, Three, and Five and Conner Three and Five were all at least somewhat typical of the Old Burton House atmosphere immediately after renovation. This is becoming less true with one or more of these floors. Still, some want very much to preserve the past, and as a result they hold onto old traditions, be they floor names (It is an interesting side-light that in the old Burton, all floors were known as First, Second, etc. while in the new Burton they have generally changed



Jerry Fly, Phil Barber, and Mike Lerer throw Chuck Coplik into Parametrium Pond. A former Burton House tradition, it has not occurred since renovation.

to One, Two, etc.), party traditions, hacking traditions, or whatever.

The CSE report of 1973 states, "The dormitory environment places very little pressure on anyone to conform in his choice of a life style, and most students seem content with a sort of anarchy. It is somewhat ironic to note that this feeling increases as the quality of the facilities increases, contrary to the hope of the 1963 (CSE) report. When conditions are bad as in the Old Burton, students see a need to pull together to make the place work at all; with luxurious accommodations, they are content to go about their own business. Very few complain, because the only restrictions on house autonomy now are those involving major expenditures or space limitations, but there is no great enthusiasm."

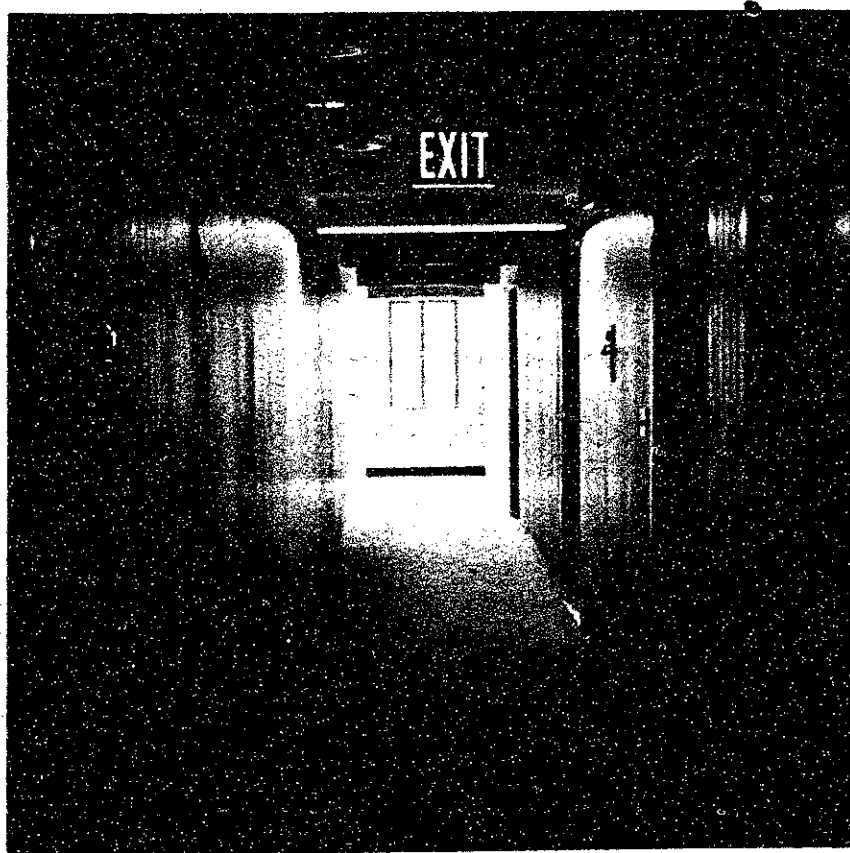
The other major change implemented in the new dorms, in addition to making them look nicer, was the creation of the suite subunit. They were created with the intent of providing an alternative to Commons, where suite-mates could cook and eat together in a pleasant atmosphere. However, they were not really intended to be significant social units. It was generally agreed that they were simply too small to function independently. In spite of this assumption, a survey taken by the CSE immediately after renovation in Burton revealed that 53.8 percent of the residents considered the suite as

the basic unit. Only 18.2 percent considered the unit to be the floor.

Since a large number of people who considered the floor to be the basic unit probably came from the few close-knit floors, it would seem that the floor as a basic unit largely disappeared upon renovation.

"While the Old Burton used to have effective unity of 70-man floors, the new Burton has not gone far beyond the suite as basic unit though in time the entry may become more viable. The physical layout, constrained by the shell of the old building tends to work against greater unification." (CSE report, 1972)

A former resident of Burton wrote the following when he viewed the renovation. There are some who maintained that the only reason that the Old Burton House was tolerated at all was synecdoche — the fact that the experience was an allegory of MIT. Not that there was anything resembling elan, or school spirit, but rather, the tie that bound was survival, and perhaps a subdued pride therein. For some, life in Burton appealed to a certain latent hippie instinct; for others, it might have been the comfort that this was as low as they would ever get. Now, perhaps, a new dimension of all that allegory has been added, that follows a pattern of institutional evolution: along with wealth and independence comes departmentalization and isolation."



stubbornly resisted anything resembling interior decoration, and the Servend machines consistently denied their services seemingly with a frequency correlated to the degree of desperation of the vendee. No one disputed the fact that Burton was ugly, decrepit, institutional and often depressing in its own right."

Twenty years of water fights and beer blasts had taken their toll. Despite this, Burton attracted many people. On the surface this seems surprising. Baker and even East Campus and Senior House had far better physical facilities. All had rooms along the sides of long corridors and large communal bathrooms. Of course none were co-ed yet.

Why, then, did people voluntarily move into the Old Burton and, indeed, why do many people seem to prefer the old corridor-style dorms today?

To an architect the old dorms are a disaster. They tend to limit social interaction by putting people in rooms on either side of long corridors. They are comparatively uncomfortable. They are in many cases so run down that there is no reason why their residents should have any pride in them. What is largely overlooked in the new dorm construction is that what the old dorms couldn't provide in terms of comfort, they made up for in adaptability.

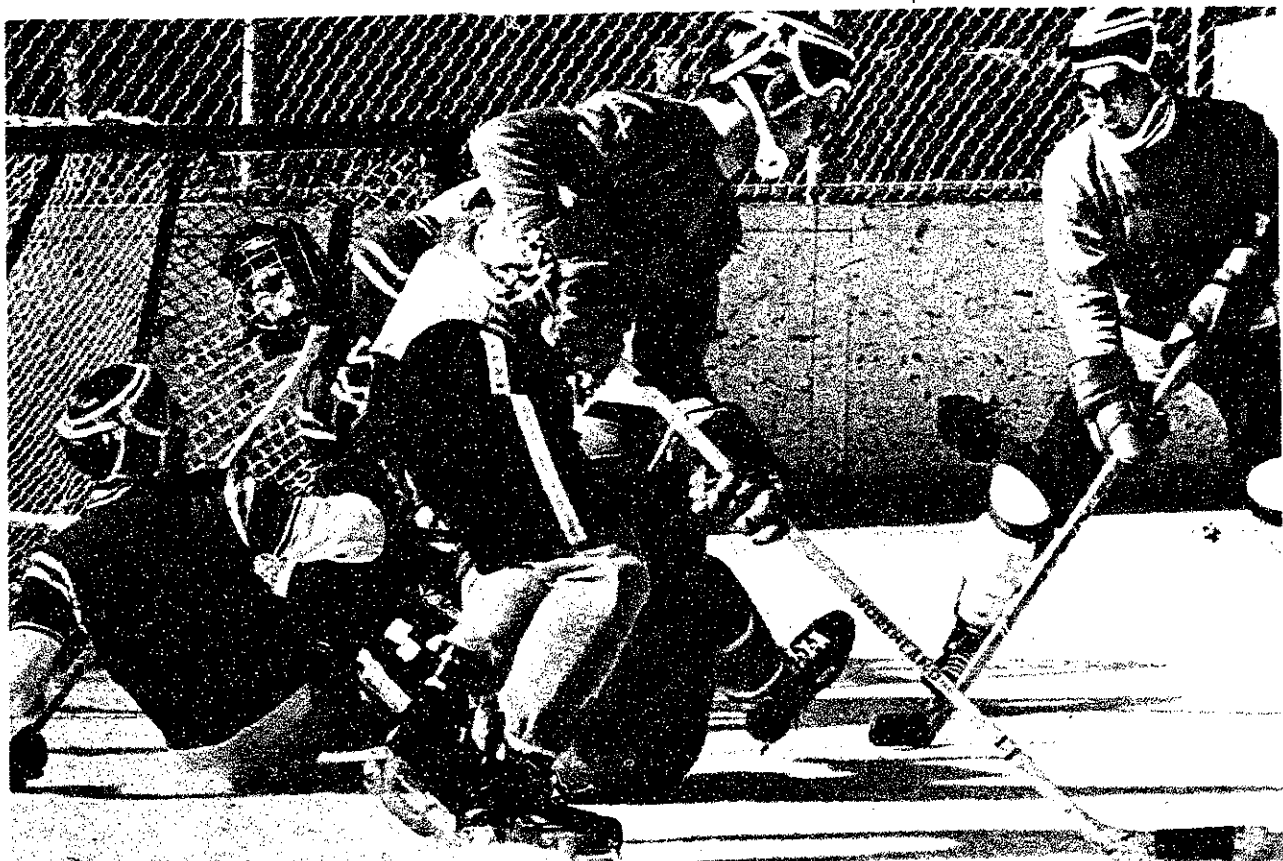
Residents could do almost anything to them and no one cared. They could paint their rooms, they could break the walls with hockey pucks, they could conduct massive waterfights up and down the stairwells, they could break

tivity and quality of socializing. The CSE's facts are correct. Their conclusions are also, for some people. It is true that these changes would make the dorm more civilized and quieter, but the CSE forgot that this is not what all residents want out of a dorm. Not all people want a dormitory that they can show off to their parents. Not everyone considers peace and quiet of paramount importance. Most importantly, many would dispute the fact that eliminating hall hockey and waterfights is "increasing the quantity and quality of socializing."

A concrete example is freshman shower night. Many people do not approve of it and support its abolition. By the same token, many feel that it is an essential way of bringing freshmen into a new environment. These people comprise a sizeable majority on several floors in Burton. For these people, it is a night of showering and massive waterfights.

War is waged with countless fire extinguishers, slingshots powered by ten feet of moriah tubing, wastebuckets full of water, eggs, and other weapons. Covert strategy meetings are held in various suites and the battle generally ends when a floor and its residents have more than reached their saturation level, and the smell of old beer has begun to rise out of the carpeting.

Certainly, this is hardly quiet and civilized. Clearly, carpeting and other luxuries tend to deter this sort of activity (There was over \$1300 in damages charged to



Rick Heldt in action for Burton against Kappa Sigma several years ago.

# sports

## MIT swims to nat'ls

By Gregg Stave

For the first time since 1971, MIT will be represented at the NCAA Division III Nationals. Rick Ehrlich '77, Sam Senne '78, Preston Vorlicek '79, Bob Hone '79, and John Dieken '80, will make the trip to Oberlin College in Ohio on Thursday for the championship meet. The swimmers qualified for the Nationals with spectacular performances at the New England Championships held March 3-5 at Springfield College. At the New Englands seven school records fell and all participants swam personal bests as MIT finished a very respectable eleventh out of thirty schools.

Last year the Beavers finished eighteenth but sparked by Preston Vorlicek's amazing performances, a fired-up MIT squad demonstrated their improved abilities. Among the teams MIT finished ahead of were Amherst and the University of Massachusetts. Earlier in the season the Beavers were narrowly defeated by Amherst in a meet characterized as a near upset. The victory over UMass avenged last year's loss. The New England Championships are dominated by Division I and Division II powerhouses and this makes the eleventh place finish even more phenomenal.

Every time Vorlicek went to the blocks, a school record was

broken. He qualified for the Nationals in the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard breast stroke. He is also on the medley relay team that qualified. In the breast stroke, Vorlicek's trail heat time of 2:18 placed him seventh and into the consolation finals.

Dieken also assaulted the record book. In the 1650-yard freestyle, a race that is usually swum only at championship meets, Dieken watched as junior Dick Henze broke Dieken's school record in an early heat. Henze's superb swim brought him the record, but only for one hour. Dieken won back the record with an incredible 17:29 performance, bettering the old mark by fifty seconds in a sport where improvement is measured in tenths of seconds. On the way to the 1650, he also broke the school mark for the 1000-yard freestyle. In addition he set a new record in the 200-yard freestyle and swam backstroke on the medley relay.

On the diving boards MIT was well represented by Ehrlich and Hone. Ehrlich placed eighth on the one-meter board and an impressive fourth from the three-meter height. Hone finished seventh on the low board. MIT divers have fared well all year. Ehrlich and Hone will be traveling to the Nationals with the four swimmers to vie for All-American honors.

Captain Senne swam freestyle



John Bradstreet

Preston Vorlicek '79 who qualified for the nationals in the individual medley and breast stroke shows how the butterfly is done.

and Greg Floro '79 swam butterfly for the 400-yard medley relay team that qualified. Floro had been a freestyler until this year's Greater Boston Championship meet when he tried the 100-yard butterfly, just for fun.

The Beavers' strong finish this year was a product of depth in addition to record-breaking performances. Personal bests were registered by Tom Colton '80, Henze, and Gene Henschel '78 in the 500-yard freestyle. In the 200-yard freestyle John Bradstreet '80, Colton and Henschel all broke the magic two-minute mark.

### MIT Records Set at New Englands

Event	Swimmer	New Record	Old Record
200 Free	Dieken	1:49.5	1:50.9
200 Breast	Vorlicek	2:16.3	2:20
200 IM	Vorlicek	2:06.3	2:07.2
400 IM	Vorlicek	4:28.5	4:36
1000 Free	Dieken	10:31	10:32
1650 Free	Dieken	17:29	18:21
400 Medley Relay	Dieken, Vorlicek, Floro, Senne	3:45.6	3:48.1

## NCAA shuts N. Eng. out of finals

By Glenn Brownstein

It's a conspiracy, that's what it is. It's a carefully constructed plot to draw a big television audience, to keep the big-name conference teams in the tournament as long as possible while knocking out the lesser-known eastern independents as quickly as possible.

It's the NCAA Division I basketball tournament, that's what it is — a tournament supposedly designed along regional lines, but now so big and almost unwieldy that the average fan can't tell a regional tournament by the teams that play in it.

Say you're a Providence fan. Well, if you didn't mind taking a short hop to Norman, Oklahoma last Saturday, you could follow your team in action against Big Eight champion Kansas State.

Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) New England regional champion, Holy Cross, was "rewarded" for its upset win over Providence, 68-67 with a trip to Indiana University to play Michigan, only the number one team in the nation.

Or consider St. John's of New York City — the Redmen captured the ECAC New York Metropolitan title, and traveled to Tucson, Arizona to meet Utah Saturday night.

The other ECAC tourney winner, Syracuse, faced Tennessee in Baton Rouge, Louisiana Sunday afternoon.

So we have four eastern teams, all forced by an unusual selection

process to travel a considerable distance from home. Such a problem is not confined to the East alone, however.

NCAA rules specify that if two teams from the same conference are chosen to play in the national tournament, they cannot compete in the same regional.

Five "runner-up" selections and the 19 automatic regional berths given to league champions, leave just eight spots open for the ECAC regional winners, considered independents by the NCAA, and five other independent teams.

Of those five independents, Detroit (midwest), Marquette (midwest), and Nevada-Las Vegas (west), were placed in proper geographic tournaments, leaving just Providence, and the one independent team placed in the east — Notre Dame.

If geography meant anything, surely the NCAA would switch Notre Dame and Providence and maybe allow at least one ECAC team to compete in the East. Uh-uh. So chances are the eastern teams will be sitting on the sidelines when the NCAA finals roll around in 10 days. And maybe North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Syracuse will all pull upsets and make it an eastern tourney. But their way, and definitely that of Providence, Holy Cross, and St. John's, is as difficult as it could possibly be made.

The time has come for the NCAA to re-examine the logic in-

involved in selecting representative regional tournament fields for its national basketball tournament, so that those of us in the Northeast, where this game started, might get a chance to see one of our favorites in a national championship game.

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